

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 039259

EXDIS FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRES. LEONE), IT

SUBJECT: LEONE VISIT

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION CONCERNING PRESIDENT LEONE'S POSSIBLE PLANS TO TRANSIT THE UNITED STATES IN APRIL, PRESIDENT FORD HAS AGREED TO A 60-MINUTE OFFICE CALL BY LEONE, IF HE PROCEEDS WITH HIS PLANS, ON APRIL 12, AT 3:00 P.M. EMBASSY SHOULD CONFIRM LEONE'S ACCEPTANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO CONSULT WITH THE ITALIANS ON THE TEXT OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT TO BE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ROME AND WASHINGTON AT A MUTUALLY AGREED TIME:

"PRESIDENT GIOVANNI LEONE OF ITALY WILL TRANSIT THE UNITED STATES ON (DATE) IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING OF THE ITALIAN BICENTENNIAL PALLADIUM EXHIBIT AT CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, EN ROUTE TO HIS STATE VISIT TO MEXICO. IN

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KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE US-ITALIAN JOINT DECLARATION

OF SEPTEMBER 25, 1974, ON THE DESIRABILITY OF FREQUENT
CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY,
PRESIDENT FORD WILL RECEIVE THE PRESIDENT OF ITALY ON
APRIL 12, IN WASHINGTON DURING PRESIDENT LEONE'S STOP IN
THE UNITED STATES." INGERSOLL

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